Attorney Docket: 2923-679

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of determining the invasivity of malignant disorders

comprising measuring the expression of at least one gene selected from the group

consisting of AXL, GAS, MMP14, ADAM12, ADAM17, MT3MMP, FGF2, FGF5, FYN,

LYN, DDR2, TIMP1, HBEGF, SGF, S6KII, MAP4K4, SIRP.alpha., Annexin 2, Stat 5b

and EDG2 wherein a high expression correlates with a high invasivity.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, comprising measuring the expression of at least

two genes selected from said group.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the malignant disorder is cancer,

particularly selected from breast cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, lung cancer,

colon cancer, glioblastomas and other cancers.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the malignant disorder is cancer,

particularly selected from breast cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, lung cancer,

colon cancer, glioblastomas and other cancers.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the cancer is glioblastomas.

Attorney Docket: 2923-679

Page 3

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the expression is determined on the

mRNA level.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the expression is determined on a

nucleic acid array.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the expression is determined on the

protein level.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the expression is determined by an

immunoassay.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the invasivity of cancer cells in a subject

in need thereof comprising administering to the subject an inhibitor of the AXL protein or

AXL protein ligand, or any combination thereof, in an amount which is effective for

reducing the invasivity of cancer cells, and wherein said inhibitor of the AXL protein is

selected from the group consisting of anti-AXL antibodies or Fab, Fab', Fab2 or scFV

antigen binding fragments thereof, and wherein said cancer cells are selected from the

group consisting of breast cancer cells, prostate cancer cells, kidney cancer cells,

glioblastoma cells or cancer cells of epithelial origin.

Attorney Docket: 2923-679

Page 4

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the AXL protein ligand is GAS6.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 comprising inhibiting the receptor

tyrosine kinase activity of the AXL protein.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 comprising inhibiting the expression

of the AXL gene.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 comprising inhibiting the interaction

between the AXL protein and its ligands.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the cancer cells are

glioblastoma cells.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the subject is a mammal.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the AXL

Attorney Docket: 2923-679

Page 5

protein inhibitor and the AXL protein ligand inhibitor is an antibody directed against the

AXL protein.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is an antisense

nucleic acid, a ribozyme or an RNA interference molecule directed against the AXL

gene or a transcript thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is a dominant-

negative mutant of the AXL gene.

22. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active agent an

inhibitor of the AXL gene, AXL ligand gene, AXL protein and/or AXL protein ligand

together with pharmacologically active diluents, carriers and/or adjuvants.

23. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the inhibitor is an antibody

directed against the AXL protein.

24. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the inhibitor is an antisense

nucleic acid, a ribozyme or an RNA interference molecule directed against the AXL

gene or a transcript thereof.

Attorney Docket: 2923-679

Page 6

25. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the inhibitor is a dominant-

negative mutant of the AXL gene.

26. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22 for reducing the invasivity of malignant

disorders.

27. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22 for reducing the metastasis formation in

malignant disorders.

28. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 26, wherein the malignant disorder is

glioblastomas.

29. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22 comprising at least one further active

agent.

30. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 29, wherein the further active agent is a

cytotoxic or cytostatic agent.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying and/or characterizing an inhibitor of the

invasivity of malignant disorders comprising determining, if a test compound is capable

of inhibiting the AXL gene, AXL ligand gene, AXL protein and/or AXL protein ligand.

Attorney Docket: 2923-679

Page 7

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31 comprising determining, if a test compound is

capable of binding to the AXL protein and/or reducing the AXL gene expression.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein a cell-based assay system is used.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein a cell-free assay system is used.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the subject is a human.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said inhibitor of the AXL

protein ligand is selected from the group consisting of Fab, Fab', or Fab2 fragments,

and scFV fragments.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising inhibiting AXL

gene expression by administering the inhibitor of the AXL gene or the inhibitor of the

AXL ligand gene, or a combination thereof.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising inhibiting AXL

protein activity or inhibiting the interaction between AXL protein and its ligand, or a

combination thereof, by administering the inhibitor of the AXL protein or an inhibitor of

the interaction between the AXL protein and GAS6, or a combination thereof.

Attorney Docket: 2923-679

Page 8

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the inhibitor of the AXL protein is an anti-AXL antibody and wherein the cancer cells are prostate cancer cells.